

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed November 17, 2006, in the above-identified application.

New claim 20 is added. Accordingly, claims 2-7, 9-14, 18 and 20 are the claims currently pending in the present application.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 9-14 and 18 are allowed.

Claims 2 and 10 are amended to clarify features recited thereby. Claim 4 is amended to depend from claim 10. Further, claims 3 and 5-7 are amended to conform them more closely to U.S. patent practice style.

Rejection of Claims 2-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ouchi, U.S. Patent No. 5,976,073. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 depends from claim 10, which the Examiner has stated is allowed. Claims 2, 3 and 5-7 depend from claim 4 and are therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

New Claim

New claim 20 is added so as more fully to claim patentable features of applicant's invention. New claim 20 is fully supported by applicant's disclosure, see, for example, original claim 2.

Further, claim 20 depends from claim 4 and is therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

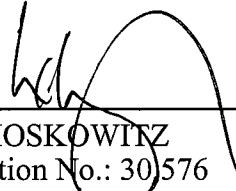
In view of the foregoing discussion, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the

present Amendment or regarding the application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-provided telephone number.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
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ON February 20, 2007

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Respectfully submitted,



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